

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A filter body, particularly for filtering particulates present in the exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a plurality of one-piece blocks; and

seals assembled with said blocks, a nature of a material of said seals being different from a nature of a material of said blocks,

[[a]] the plurality of said blocks each comprising a plurality of flow channels for said exhaust gases, each of said flow channels being bounded by [[a]] respective side ~~wall~~ walls, a plug, and an opening terminating outwardly, wherein a side wall of a flow channel defines a boundary on all sides in a transverse cross-section for surrounding an internal volume of the flow channel,

wherein the plurality of flow channels of each block comprises internal channels and at least one reinforced channel, a first portion of the side wall of the at least one ~~of said~~ channels reinforced channel, ~~called "reinforced channel,"~~

~~comprises~~ comprising a reinforcement compared to ~~remaining~~ all
other portions of said side wall ~~that form a second portion of~~
~~said side wall,~~ said first portion having an external face
defining an exterior of the block, and a ratio of a thickness of
said first portion to a thickness of said ~~second portion~~ other
portions, in ~~[[a]]~~ the transverse ~~plane of section~~ cross-section,
being always between 1.1 and 3, the thickness of the other
portions being identical to a thickness of side walls of the
internal channels,

wherein the filter body ~~comprising~~ comprises a
plurality of adjacent reinforced channels arranged so that each
said first portion of said reinforced channels form a continuous
reinforcing partition, a thickness of said reinforcing partition
~~is~~ being substantially constant,

wherein said reinforcement is substantially constant
for all the reinforced channels of a group in any transverse
plane of section and/or in any longitudinal plane, and

wherein ~~the transverse cross section of the channels is~~
~~not square shaped~~ inlet channels of the plurality of flow
channels each have a shape in the transverse cross-section,
outlet channels of the plurality of flow channels each have a
shape in the transverse cross-section, and the shape of the inlet
channels is different than that of the outlet channels,

~~wherein said first portion comprises an external face~~
~~defining an exterior of said block, and~~

~~wherein the thickness of internal portions of the side walls of peripheral channels of said blocks is identical to a thickness of walls of internal channels of said blocks.~~

19-21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said reinforced channels of said group are arranged so that said reinforcing partition overlaps a longitudinal edge of said filter block.

23. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said group of reinforced channels comprises all peripheral channels of said block so that said reinforcing partition surrounds said block, so that said reinforcing partition is at an external surface of said block.

24. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said ratio is constant irrespective of the transverse plane of section considered.

25. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said reinforcement is substantially constant in any longitudinal plane of section of said block.

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein said ratio is between 1.9 and 2.1.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) An extrusion die conformed to form, by extrusion of a ceramic material, a structure provided with channels comprising a plurality of flow channels, each of said flow channels being bounded by a side wall, a side wall of a flow channel defining a boundary on all sides in a transverse cross-section for surrounding an internal volume of the flow channel,

wherein the plurality of flow channels of each structure comprises internal flow channels and at least one reinforced channel, a first portion of the side wall of the at least one ~~of said channels, called "reinforced channel,"~~ comprises reinforced channel comprising a reinforcement compared to ~~the rest of said~~ all other portions ~~side wall forming a second portion~~ of said side wall, said first portion having an external face defining an exterior of the structure, and a ratio of a thickness of said first portion to a thickness of said ~~second portion~~ other portions, in ~~[[a]]~~ the transverse plane of section cross-section, being always between 1.1 and 3, ~~said structure~~

~~comprising said reinforcement~~ the thickness of the other portions
being identical to a thickness of side walls of the internal
channels, and

wherein inlet channels of the plurality of flow
channels each have a shape in the transverse cross-section,
outlet channels of the plurality of flow channels each have a
shape in the transverse cross-section, and the shape of the inlet
channels is different than that of the outlet channels.

30. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a
filter block comprising a plurality of flow channels for exhaust
gases, each of said flow channels being bounded by a side wall, a
side wall of a flow channel defining a boundary on all sides in a
transverse cross-section for surrounding an internal volume of
the flow channel, and a plug and an opening terminating
outwardly, wherein the plurality of flow channels of each
structure comprises internal channels and at least one reinforced
channel, a first portion of the side wall of the at least one of
said channels, called "reinforced channel," comprises reinforced
channel comprising a reinforcement compared to the rest of said
all other portions side wall forming a second portion of said
side wall, said first portion having an external face defining an
exterior of the structure, and a ratio of a thickness of said
first portion to a thickness of said second portion other
portions, in [[a]] the transverse plane of section cross-section,

being always between 1.1 and 3, and wherein inlet channels of the plurality of flow channels each have a shape in the transverse cross-section, outlet channels of the plurality of flow channels each have a shape in the transverse cross-section, and the shape of the inlet channels is different than that of the outlet channels, said method comprising the following successive steps:

extrusion of a ceramic material through a die to form a porous honeycomb structure,

alternate plugging on an upstream face and on a downstream face, and

drying and sintering of said plugged porous structure to obtain said filter block.

31-33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a filter body by assembling a plurality of filter blocks, wherein a plurality of said filter blocks each comprise a plurality of flow channels for exhaust gases, each of said flow channels being bounded by a side wall, a side wall of a flow channel defining a boundary on all sides in a transverse cross-section for surrounding an internal volume of the flow channel, and a plug and an opening terminating outwardly, wherein the plurality of flow channels of each block comprises internal channels and reinforced channels, a first portion of the side wall of the at

~~least one of said channels, called "reinforced channel,"~~
~~comprises~~ reinforced channels each comprising a reinforcement
~~compared the rest of said all other portions side wall forming a~~
~~second portion~~ of said side wall, said first portion having an
external face defining an exterior of the structure, and a ratio
of a thickness of said first portion to a thickness of said
~~second portion other portions,~~ in ~~[[a]]~~ the transverse plane of
~~section cross-section,~~ being always between 1.1 and 3, the ~~filter~~
~~body comprising a plurality of adjacent~~ reinforced channels
arranged so that each said first portion of said reinforced
channels form a continuous reinforcing partition, a thickness of
said reinforcing partition ~~is~~ being substantially constant,
wherein inlet channels of the plurality of flow channels each
have a shape in the transverse cross-section, outlet channels of
the plurality of flow channels each have a shape in the
transverse cross-section, and the shape of the inlet channels is
different than that of the outlet channels, and wherein each of
said plurality of filter blocks is fabricated by the following
successive steps:

extrusion of a ceramic material through a die to form
a porous honeycomb structure; and

drying and sintering of said porous structure to obtain
said filter blocks.

35. (previously presented) A filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein at least one of said blocks presents the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped.

36. (previously presented) A filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein all the assembled blocks have said reinforcement along their whole external surface.

37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) The filter body as claimed in claim 18, wherein the reinforcement of the reinforcing partition is arranged so that, in any transverse plane of section, [[a]] the flow cross section sections of [[a]] the reinforced inlet ~~channel~~ and ~~a reinforced~~ outlet ~~channel~~ channels are substantially identical to those of the ~~other~~ internal channels, inlet and outlet ~~channels~~, respectively.

39. (previously presented) The filter body as claimed in claim 27, wherein said ratio is substantially equal to 2.

40-41. (canceled)

42. (previously presented) A filter body as claimed in claim 23, wherein at least one of said blocks presents the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped.